

Budget

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Commissioner Daniel P. Troy said the budget allows the county to provide for statutory requirements.

"But not at the same level of services we've been accustomed to," Troy said. "Down the road we're going to have to start to make tougher and tougher decisions."

Commissioner Raymond E. Sines said the budgeting process has been difficult.

"We haven't made a lot of friends the last few months because we've had to make tough decisions," Sines said. "This is a budget that none of us like and none of us want to pass, but it's a responsible position and it's our job as elected officials to be responsible in this environment."

Commissioner Robert E. Aufuldish said revenues are down and department heads and officeholders are doing what they can to balance their budgets.

"Unfortunately, some folks that worked with us a few years ago are no longer part of our government," Aufuldish said. "We know when the state budget is passed, our revenue stream is going to be less and next year it will be a lot less."

The largest appropriation goes to the Sheriff's Office, which will receive \$13.24 million for 2011 — \$890,000 less than the \$14.13 million appropriated in 2010.

The Elections Board's funding will drop to \$1.17 million for 2011, which is \$340,000 less than the \$1.54 million appropriated in 2010.

Elections Board Director Janet F. Clair plans to review the appropriation that she says for now is about \$75,000 less than she had anticipated, but that figure doesn't include two mandated mailings that could be an additional \$90,000.

"On its face, it's not what we were requesting, I'm not sure where we're going to go from here," Clair said.

At least one employee furlough day is slated for this year for Elections Board workers, she said.

Clair said she recognizes the county's financial situation and the agency has worked hard to scale back everywhere possible.

"Then you have the commissioners say that's not good enough and cut back more," Clair said. "We've been communicating with commissioners on an ongoing basis and the budget director, but apparently they expect the Board of Elections to find the money from other resources."

time and no increase in salary."

The Lake County Sheriff's Office recently laid off two deputies, which brings the total to 31 positions eliminated since the end of 2009.

Sheriff Daniel A. Dunlap said his office already has voluntarily

decided not to replace eight employees who have recently retired.

In addition, the Sheriff's Office is not expected to replace two other deputies who are expected to retire in the next few months.

"We've already accepted our

lumps for the time being and have laid some people off and operating with less money than in the past," Dunlap said. "On the bright side, we didn't get any more cuts to our budget than what we were planning for the year."

Clair said the Elections Board recently cut its staff from 12 to 11 employees for the first time since 1983, which was the last time an additional full-time equivalent position was added to the staff.

She is concerned that cutting employee hours or staffing levels wouldn't allow the Elections Board to meet statutory requirements for the amount of record keeping needed.

But now it appears, Clair said, the Elections Board soon might need to cut at least one worker from the full-time staff of 11, which includes herself and Deputy Director Scott E. Daisher.

"Lake County has had excellent elections for the past 30 years," Clair said. "It's been an honor to conduct the elections because of the people we have here who are willing to work 90 hours a week, with no over-

Commissioners OK ^{NH} 3-25-11 smaller budget for 2011

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Lake County commissioners unanimously approved a budget Thursday for 2011 that will be \$3,715,093 million, or 6.3 percent, smaller than last year's spending plan.

The \$54.83 million permanent general fund budget will not give officeholders and departments much wiggle room. In 2010, the county's budget was \$58.54 mil-

lion, while the 2009 budget was \$61 million.

The estimated revenues for the general fund in 2011 are about \$55.09 million and the carryover balance is anticipated to be about \$3.1 million heading into 2012, county Budget Director Michael T. Matas said.

Further cuts could happen later this year, depending on how the state budget eventually is crafted, he said.

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